



State Representative John Hetherington

Dear Friends,

It continues to be an honor and a privilege to serve as your state representative. If you have any comments or suggestions concerning state legislation in the coming year, I would be glad to hear from you.

Enclosed is an update on some of the major issues that were addressed during the 2006 session. I am happy to report continued progress toward new rail cars for commuters service on the Metro-North Railroad, as well as some advances in addressing highway congestion. Transportation remains a high priority.

My concern is to preserve the quality of life in our New Canaan and Wilton communities as well as protect the rights of our citizens.

As always, I look forward to assisting with any state related or consumer issues that you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me with comments, suggestions or concerns.

I wish everyone in New Canaan and Wilton a wonderful summer season.

Sincerely,

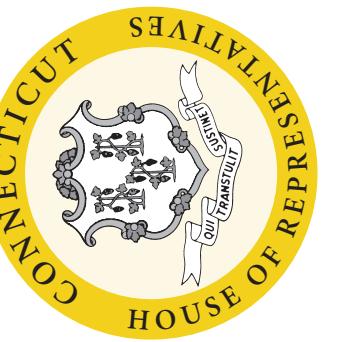


State Representative

JOHN HETHERINGTON

Proudly Serving the 125th District

New Canaan ★ Wilton

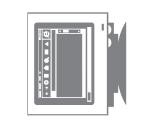


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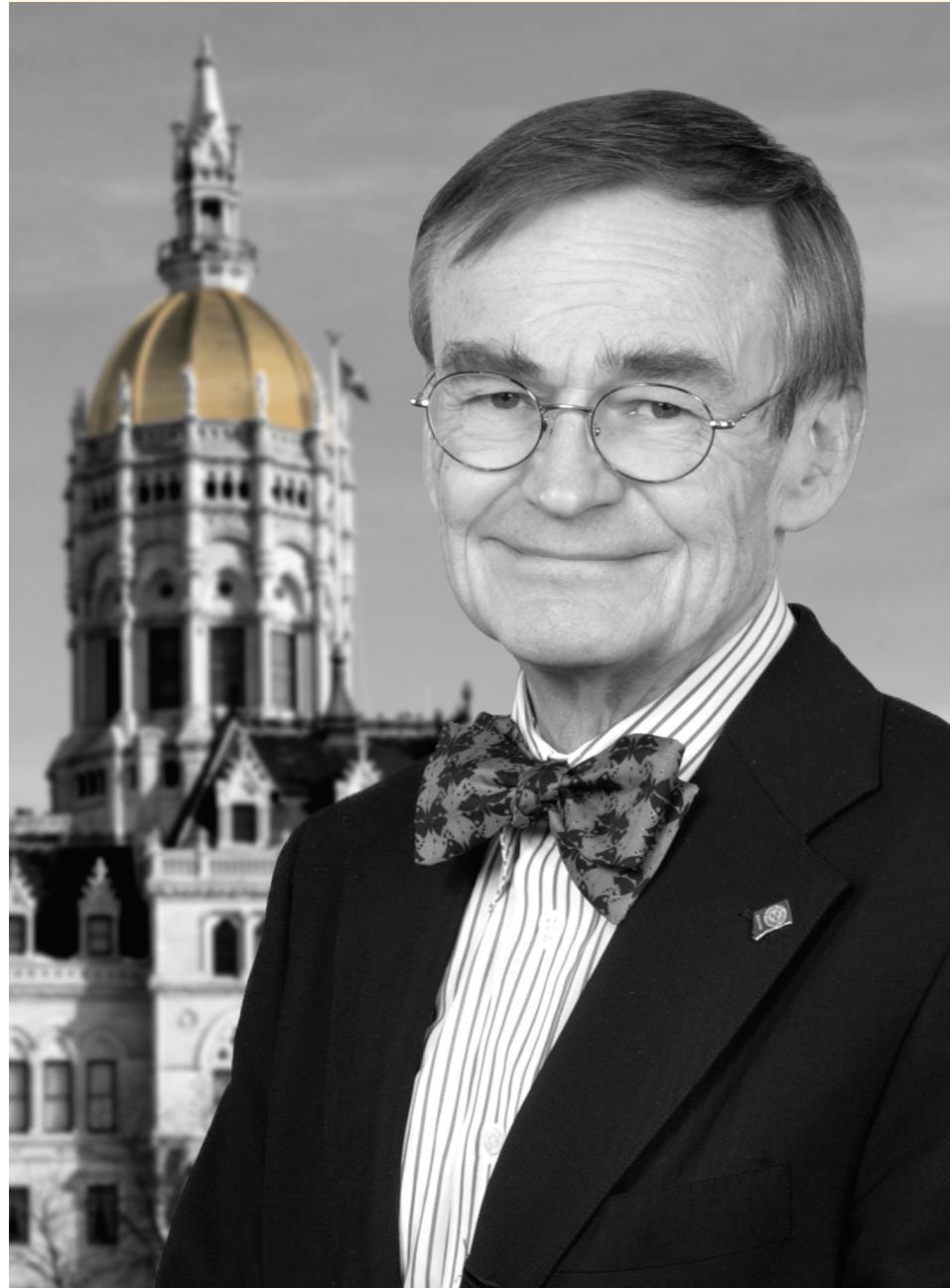
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PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
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2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
JOHN HETHERINGTON
Proudly Serving the 125th District
New Canaan ★ Wilton



**Rep. Hetherington
speaks on the floor of the
House during legislative
debate.**

PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

As in past years, I am working hard for taxpayers, children, families and senior citizens. I am happy to report that the legislature agreed to several initiatives to hold down spending, protect the environment, help save for college education, improve transportation and stimulate job growth. If you would like further information, please visit our website at www.housegop.ct.gov. Following are some of the highlights.

Voting for Job Creation

Connecticut continues to lag the nation in new jobs and economic growth. I fought for legislation to roll back some of the high taxes that make Connecticut uncompetitive with other states and nations. The property tax on manufacturing equipment will be phased out, the corporate tax surcharge that was reimposed last year will be eliminated and tax credits will encourage companies to hire employees and produce movies in Connecticut. New legislation will encourage innovation through faculty recruitment and an entrepreneurial center at UConn, funds for small business incubators, and programs to finance early stage ventures and to match federal research assistance. The state will establish pilot math and science grant programs and student loan repayment grants for engineering and doctoral students. Several initiatives will promote research in the growing field of nanotechnology, a branch of engineering that deals with the design and manufacture of extremely small electronic circuits and mechanical devices built at the molecular level of matter.

For the Environment

The state will establish a greenhouse gas labeling program for new motor vehicles starting with 2009 models, under a bill that I cosponsored. New legislation also will require public notification about contaminated sites and private drinking water wells.

For Transportation

With my strong support, the legislature authorized a 10-year, \$2.3-billion transportation package in addition to last year's \$1.3-billion plan that included 342 new cars for the Metro-North commuter rail line. Future authorized projects include more commuter rail service, stations and parking facilities and removal of I-95 bottlenecks.

For Property Owners

The legislature created an Ombudsman for Property Rights to help property owners with eminent domain disputes. That is a start, but I supported stronger legislation to restrict government ability to take private property for economic development.

For Seniors/Veterans/Healthcare

A new law allows towns and cities to freeze property taxes for homes owned by people age 70 or older. Homemaker-companion agencies must register with the Department of Consumer Protection and employees must undergo background checks. Legislation will protect jobs and finances of National Guard members who are called up for state service such as natural disasters, just as if called up for national service. The legislature updated Connecticut law on end of life decisions, hospital acquired infections and umbilical cord blood banking.

For Children, Education

I continued the fight for more state aid for our local public schools under the state's Education Cost Sharing formula. Some state school aid increases were approved, but at less than full funding. Good news is that families can now take a state income tax deduction when they save up to \$10,000 for a child's education in the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET). With my support, the legislature approved \$875 million in local school construction reimbursements including increased grants for reauthorized projects.

State Budget

There were some positive elements in the state budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006. With the leadership of Gov. M Jodi Rell, we stayed under the constitutional spending cap and made good use of current surplus.

The budget provides \$245.7 million for the underfunded Teachers' Retirement System so that the system is currently funded for the first time in a decade. Another \$85.5 million will pay off debt from the 2003 fiscal crisis. Towns will receive \$33 million in property tax relief, and at least \$189 million be saved in the state Rainy Day Fund for future economic downturns and other emergencies.

Grants to towns increase by \$115.5 million to \$2.557 billion for Fiscal Year 2007. Aid for special education students goes up by \$35 million. Taxpayers can take a property tax credit of up to \$500 when filing 2006 state income returns, up from \$400. A \$1-million program for adults with autism also is authorized.

To reform or repeal the Connecticut estate tax that was reimposed in 2005, I cosponsored several amendments on the House floor. They were rejected by the Democratic majority. Gov. Rell proposed to eliminate the annual car tax, which also was not enacted by the majority.

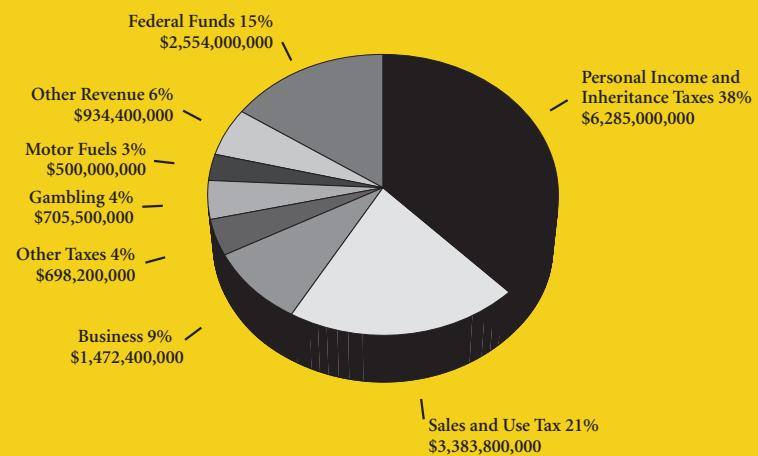


**Rep. Hetherington,
right, confers with
Rep. Donald Sherer on
the floor of the House of
Representatives at the
State Capitol in
Hartford.**

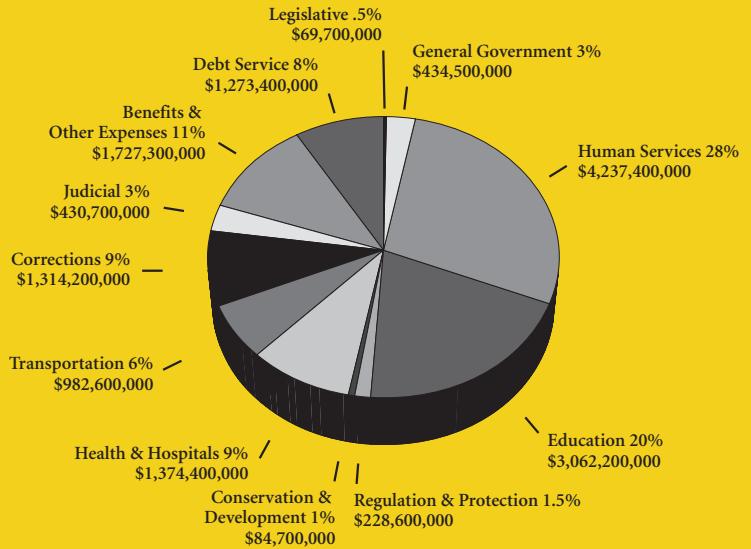
BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



*In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.

Information Available

A complete summary of the Major Public Acts adopted by the legislature this year including the adjusted state budget can be found on the legislative website: www.cga.ct.gov.

You can also contact my office and I would be happy to mail more detailed information to you.